Temujin

The name of an undefeated epic poem

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Introduction

There are some names in the pages of history that evoke both fear and wonder. 'Genghis Khan' is one such name. Some have seen him as a symbol of destruction, while others consider him one of the architects of the modern world. The story of how an orphan boy from the dusty steppes of Central Asia built the largest unbroken empire in the history of the world is a story that rivals any fairy tale.

This book aims to tell not just the story of a warrior's triumph, but also the indomitable determination, brutal reality, and incredible foresight behind the rise of an ordinary boy named Temujin to become 'Genghis Khan.' When his own tribe abandoned him, when his family starved, he learned that there was no alternative to strength to survive in this world.

In this vast canvas of 1.5 lakh words, we will travel to the remote Mongolia of the 12th century, where the wind was mingled with the sound of arrows and the clatter of horses' hooves. We will see his military genius, his strict law 'Yasa' and how he built a vast commercial and cultural bridge from East to West. Genghis Khan did not just shed blood, he shattered the shackled social order of that period.

This is a thrilling journey into the life of the descendant of Mongolia's mysterious 'Blue Wolf'. Hopefully, readers will find a new horizon of history in every page of this book.

Md. Nazmul Hossain
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The background of the steppe and the birth of Temujin

Mongolia in the 12th century was a turbulent and bloody land. Hundreds of Mongol tribes lived in the vast deserts and mountain passes. There was no unity among them; there was only the madness of stealing each other's livestock, kidnapping women, and taking blood for blood. This harsh climate and cruel society formed the basis for Genghis Khan.

The birth and miraculous signs of Temujin

Sometime in 1182 (according to some sources, 1162), a son was born to Yesugai, the leader of the Khamag Mongol tribe, on the banks of the Anon River. The child was named Temujin. According to folklore, at the time of birth, Temujin had a clot of blood in his right hand. Seeing this, the astrologers of that time predicted that this child would grow up to be a great warrior who would conquer the world and whose hands would shed the blood of countless people.

Childhood and family influences

Temujin's father, Yesugai, was an influential leader. He had been at enmity with another tribe since he kidnapped Temujin's mother (Hoelun) from that tribe. When Temujin was a boy of 9, Yesugai took him to the Kangirat tribe to arrange his marriage according to custom. There, Temujin was betrothed to a girl named Borte.

But on the way back, Temujin's life took a complete turn. On the way, Tatar tribesmen poisoned Yesugai's food under the pretext of hospitality. Yesugai died on the way home.

A dark night falls upon a 9-year-old boy, his mother, and his siblings. After Yesugai's death, his tribe refuses to feed an orphaned family, leaving Temujin alone in the wilderness of the steppe. Temujin's childhood begins with a brutal struggle to survive on grass and rats.

Dark Childhood — Exile and the Fight for Survival

After the death of Yesugai Bahadur, the sky of the Mongol steppe turned dark for Temujin's family in an instant. Temujin was only nine years old at the time. According to Mongol custom, after the death of a leader, his followers chose someone strong to be their leader. The elders of the 'Kiyad' tribe, which Temujin's father led, refused to accept an orphaned boy as their leader.

1. Betrayal and exile of the tribe

Yesugai's remaining followers decided to leave Temujin's mother Hoelun and her children behind. Hoelun tried to stop them on horseback, but no one listened. They said,*"The water in the pond has dried up, the stones have broken."*That means Yesugai is finished, so he has no more responsibilities to his family.

The entire family was exiled to a desolate desert steppe. They had no livestock or tents (yurts). The Mongolian winter was even more brutal than the Arabian desert. It was a miracle to survive there in minus 40 degrees Celsius.

2. The primitive struggle against poverty

Mother Hoelun began an incredible struggle with young Temujin, his three brothers (Kasar, Hajiun, Temuge), half-brothers (Begthar and Belgutai), and sister Temulun. The mother, who had once been the

leader's wife, now began to feed her children by catching wild fruits, roots, and small river fish.

- **Hunting Life: Temujin and Kasar learned how to hunt birds by stalking them on the shore. They often caught and burned wild mice (marmots) to eat.**
- **Mental change: This poverty taught Temujin that no one in the world belongs to anyone. It is much safer to trust the arrows in your own hands than to trust people.**

3. Family conflict and fratricide (a historical turning point)

In the midst of poverty, the brothers began to fight over food. Temujin's half-brother Begtar was older and would steal the fish and birds that Temujin hunted. Temujin feared that if Begtar grew up and took over the leadership of the tribe, their suffering would increase.

At the same time, Begtar's behavior was arrogant. One day, Temujin and his brother Kasar caught a fish together, which Begtar took away. Temujin asked his mother for justice, but Hoelun told them to be quiet. But Temujin did not calm down.

He took Kasar with him and secretly surrounded Begtar. While Begtar was sitting alone on a hill, Temujin aimed his bow and arrows from the front and Kasar from behind. Begtar realized that his death was certain. He only begged that his younger brother Belgutai not be killed. Temujin and Kasar brutally killed their own brother by impaling him on the shore.

4. Mother's anger and Temujin's hard lesson

After returning home with bloodied hands, Mother Hoelun screamed like a madman. She cursed Temujin as a 'murderer' and a 'ferocious beast'. She said,*"Now we have no friends, except our own shadow. And in that state you killed your own brother?"*

This rebuke from his mother taught Temujin the greatest lesson of his life - unity. He realized that it was impossible to survive in the bloodthirsty steppes of Mongolia if he fought alone. If there was no unity among the brothers, the enemy from outside would destroy them. This regret and lesson later became the main foundation of 'Mongol unity'.

Hoelun Uzhin: An Invincible Mother

Temujin's first and greatest teacher was his mother, Hoelun. When Temujin's father died of poisoning and his tribe was abandoned in the desert, Hoelun did not break down.

- **As a teacher: He taught his children how to survive by eating wild fruits and roots. He instilled in them the ancient history of Mongolia and stories of heroism.**
- **The Mantra of Unity: The story of that famous arrow—it is easy to break a single arrow but impossible to break a bunch of arrows—was first learned by Temujin from his mother. Hoelun was the force that transformed Temujin from an orphan boy into an invincible leader.**

Temujin in an Iron Cage — Captivity and Miraculous Escape

After the killing of Begtar, Temujin's name spread like an ominous message on the steppe air. This news reached the ears of their enemy tribe, the Taichi Uds. This was the tribe that had starved Temujin's family. They feared that if this son of Yesugai lived, he would one day grow up to take revenge. So they decided - Temujin must either be killed or crippled for life.

1. Ambush and Temujin's escape

One day, the Taichi Ud warriors attacked Temujin's camp with a large army. Temujin tried to escape to the deep forest of the mountains to protect his family. He hid in the forest for nine days. He had no food or water with him. When he tried to descend from the mountains, restless with hunger, the enemies surrounded him.

The Taichi Ud leader, Targutai, laughed at Temujin. Instead of killing him immediately, he inflicted a diabolical punishment. A heavy wooden 'cangue' was placed around Temujin's neck. This was a yoke that held the hands and neck together. In this condition, a man could not eat with his own hands, and even lying down became incredibly painful.

2. The days of iron cages and humiliation

Temujin was taken to Taichi Ud Dera. Every day he was taken from one tent to another so that everyone could laugh at this 'cursed' boy. His life then became worse than that of an animal. Night after night he would wear a heavy wooden yoke around his neck, turning blue with humiliation. But Temujin did not break. He was learning - how strong the enemy was and where their weaknesses were.

In this captivity, Temujin learned a profound lesson. He saw that even among his enemies there were people who had not forgotten their humanity. A poor shepherd named Sorkan Shira, seeing Temujin's suffering, secretly quenched his thirst and gave him courage.

3. That Historic Night: The Miraculous Escape

One summer night, the Taichi Ud tribe held a grand feast. When the warriors were all fast asleep from drinking koumiss, Temujin realized that this was his chance.

- **Attack: Temujin struck the guard on the head with the heavy wooden yoke around his neck. The guard fell.**
- **Hidden in the River: With the yoke around his neck, Temujin ran to the Anon River. Unable to swim because his hands were tied,**

he submerged his body in the shallow water of the river, keeping only his nose above.

- **Sorkan Shira's help: Taichi Ud warriors began searching for Temujin on the riverbank with torches. Sorkan Shira saw Temujin underwater. But instead of shouting, he sent the warriors away. He whispered to Temujin,*"Temujin, today your luck saved you. Run!"***

4. Liberation and new oath

With the help of Sorkan Shira, Temujin was freed from the yoke around his neck. Sorkan gave him a horse and a bow. Temujin quickly returned to his family. This escape brought Temujin immortal fame in the steppes. People started saying that the boy who could escape through the dust of Taichi Ud's eyes was protected by 'Tengri' (the god of the sky) himself.

After this incident, Temujin's vision changed. He was no longer the helpless boy he had been. The sword scar on his neck would remind him for the rest of his life that there is no forgiveness in Mongolia, there is only power.

Love and Ordeals — The Abduction of Borte and the First Battle Cry

Temujin is no longer the captive boy he was. The story of his escape has spread the message of a hero's arrival on the steppe air. But life in the steppe is merciless; here, the sound of joy is cut short by the sound of war.

1. The long-awaited reunion and wedding

In his childhood, his father Yesugai had arranged for Temujin to marry Borte, a beautiful girl from the Kangirat tribe. After a long separation and struggle, Temujin set out in search of his childhood fiancée.

Borte's father, Dei Sechen, was surprised to see Temujin—he could not believe that the orphaned boy was still alive.

The marriage was consummated. Temujin found a peaceful refuge in the rugged wilderness of Mongolia. Borte was not only his wife, but also Temujin's greatest advisor. As a wedding gift, Borte's family presented Temujin with a very expensive 'Black Sable Robe'. It was a symbol of nobility and power in the steppes of that time.

2. Friendship and Diplomacy: Meeting with Toghril Khan

Temujin knew that he could not survive alone. He went to Toghril Khan (known as Ong Khan), an old ally of his father and leader of the Kerait, one of the most powerful tribes in Mongolia. Temujin wisely presented the expensive black cloak to Toghril Khan. Toghril was pleased and gave Temujin the status of his own son and promised—*"I will reunite your lost people, reunite your scattered tribe."*

3. That Cursed Night: Attack of the Merkits

Just as Temujin was dreaming of a peaceful life, a dark shadow from his past loomed before him. Temujin's mother, Hoelun, had been kidnapped by his father, Yesugai, from a Merkit chieftain. The Merkits did not avenge the insult.

One night, hundreds of Merkit horsemen ambushed Temujin's camp. Temujin managed to escape on horseback with his mother and brothers, but Borte fell behind in the chaos. The Merkits took Borte prisoner. Temujin stood helplessly on the mountaintop watching the most precious person in his life being taken away by his enemies.

4. Temujin's Lament and Oath

After defeating Borte, Temujin worshipped on the mountain for three days and three nights. He removed his belt and placed it around his neck and asked for strength from the sky god 'Tengri'. This was

Temujin's first major campaign in Mongolian history. He sought help from his blood brother (Anda) Jamuka and Toghril Khan.

5. Rescue Mission: First Victory

The combined forces of Temujin, Jamuka, and Toghril Khan ambushed the Merkits' camp. It was a bloody night. Temujin searched every tent like a madman for Borte. Amidst the battle cries, Temujin called out repeatedly—*"Borte! Borte!"*When Borte finally heard Temujin's voice, he ran and grabbed the reins of Temujin's horse. The reunion in the moonlight was very dramatic. Temujin rescued Borte, but he had a big question in front of him. Borte was pregnant when he was rescued.

6. The Greatness of Temujin and the Birth of Jachi

Rumors spread across the steppes as to whether the child Borte was carrying was Temujin's or the Merkit leader's. But Temujin proved why he was different from everyone else. He declared that Borte was innocent and that the child was his. He named the eldest son 'Jochi', which means 'guest' in Mongolian. This generosity made Temujin a great leader.

From friend to foe — the separation of blood relatives and the struggle for power

After rescuing Borte, Temujin and his blood relative (Anda) Jamuka lived together for a year. They shared the same blanket and swore that they would fight together forever. But the Mongolian sky never allows two suns to shine together. Jamuka was the symbol of nobility, while Temujin was the leader of the common people. This ideological difference eventually turned them into bitter enemies.

1. Separation of 'Anda' or blood relatives

According to Mongol tradition, Jamuka was a noble tribal leader. He believed that only nobility or blood relations could lead to leadership. Temujin, on the other hand, believed in 'meritocracy'. Temujin would even give high positions to ordinary herdsmen in his army if they were brave.

One day, during the nomads' migration, Jamuka said a mysterious word to Temujin:*"Temujin, those who pitch their tents in the mountains will get good horses, and those who stay by the river will get good sheep."*Borte understood the meaning of this statement—Jamuka was indirectly signaling to Temujin to separate. That night, Temujin left Jamuka's camp with his followers. Thus, the historic friendship between the two friends was broken.

2. First Civil War: Battle of Dalan Baljut

After the separation, Temujin was proclaimed 'Khan' by his followers. This angered Jamuka. In 1190, Jamuka attacked Temujin with 30,000 warriors. In history, this is known as the 'Battle of Dalan Baljut'.

- **Defeat: Temujin was miserably defeated in this battle.**
- **Jamuka's Cruelty: After winning the war, Jamuka boiled Temujin's generals alive in 70 large cauldrons of boiling water. This extreme cruelty ignited the fire of revenge in Temujin's mind, but the common Mongols lost trust in Jamuka and began to lean towards Temujin.**

3. Temujin's resurrection and reforms

After the defeat, Temujin spent 10 years strengthening himself in the background. He introduced some reforms to his army that no one had ever imagined before:

- **Decimal System: He divided the army into 10, 100, 1000, and 10,000 (Tumans).**
- **Strict discipline: He placed more importance on victory than on plunder on the battlefield. He declared that no one would be**

allowed to plunder before the end of the war and that the plundered goods would be divided equally among all.

4. The fall of the Tatar tribe

In 1202, Temujin attacked the Tatar tribe that had killed his father. He decisively defeated the Tatars. After the battle, he made a harsh decision—all Tatar men taller than the axle of an ox cart would be killed. This was a stern warning to his enemies.

5. The end of Jamuka

After several battles, Jamuka was finally destitute. His own followers tricked him into surrendering to Temujin. Temujin was moved to see his old friend. He offered Jamuka the chance to work together again.

But Jamuka was a proud Mongol. He said,*"Friend Temujin, there cannot be two suns in the Mongolian sky. Execute me in such a way that my blood does not fall to the ground."*According to Mongolian belief, it is unlucky for the blood of members of the royal family to fall on the ground. Temujin fulfilled his beloved friend's last wish. He was executed bloodlessly by breaking Jamuka's spine. Temujin lost his childhood best friend, but gained the undisputed leadership of all of Mongolia.

The unification of Mongolia and the acquisition of the title 'Genghis Khan'

The year 1206. The most memorable year of Temujin's life. Having overcome decades of bloody civil wars, the loss of loved ones, and betrayal, he has now reached a position where no one dares to disobey him.

1. Kurultai: The Mongolian General Assembly

On the banks of the Anon River, the largest gathering in Mongolian history was held. It was called the Kurultai. Representatives of every large and small tribe in the steppe region gathered there. Thousands of white tents covered both banks of the river. Under the blue Mongolian sky, a huge white nine-tailed flag was raised, which was a symbol of unity.

2. Earning the title 'Genghis Khan'

At this assembly, Temujin was unanimously declared the leader of all Mongols. The shamans, or religious leaders, declared that the sky god 'Tengri' had granted Temujin the right to rule the entire world.

On that day, he was given the title 'Genghis Khan'. Historians disagree about its meaning, but the most accepted meaning is - "lord of the world" or "leader as great as the ocean". That orphan boy Temujin has written his name in the pages of world history as 'Genghis Khan' from today.

3. Yassa: The beginning of a strict regime

Genghis Khan knew that an empire could not be sustained by war alone. So he introduced his famous law, 'Yasa'.

- **Discipline: The punishment for theft, adultery, and treason was outright death.**
- **Unity: One Mongol cannot use another Mongol as a slave.**
- **Religious Freedom: Although Genghis Khan himself was a follower of shamanism, he gave complete freedom to Buddhists, Muslims, and Christians to practice their respective religions in his empire. This was a revolutionary idea for the time.**

4. Modern army and new identities

Genghis Khan erased tribal distinctions forever. No one was a 'Tatar' or a 'Merkit' anymore, everyone was now a single identity - Mongol.

He created a formidable intelligence network, through which news could reach from one end to the other in an instant.

Borte Uzhin: The Shadow and Conscience of Genghis Khan

Genghis Khan's first wife, Borte, was not only his life partner, but also the emperor's chief political advisor.

- **Advisor: When Temujin was in doubt about whether to stay with his blood relative Jamuka, Bortei was the first to realize Jamuka's treachery and advised Temujin to separate.**
- **Power: While Genghis Khan was busy conquering the world, Borte held the invisible key to governing the Mongolian mainland. The emperor would consult Borte privately before any of his major military campaigns. Borte was the calm sea that controlled the volcano within Genghis Khan.**

Invincible Army — Military Strategy and Reform

When Genghis Khan became the sole ruler of Mongolia, he faced the greatest challenge in the world. The Mongols were outnumbered, but their enemies—like the Jin Dynasty of China or the Khwarezm Empire of Persia—were armed with millions of soldiers. Genghis Khan knew that world conquest could not be achieved with swords alone; it would require a military machine the likes of which no one had ever seen before.

1. Decimal system and ironclad discipline

Genghis Khan divided his army into ten divisions: an 'arban' of 10 soldiers, a 'juun' (100 men) of 10 arbans, a 'mingan' (1000 men) of 10 juuns, and a 'tuman' (10,000 men) of 10 mingans.

That day, as thousands of horsemen lined up in their formations on the steppe, it seemed from afar that a dark cloud was looming over the horizon. Genghis Khan made it a law that if one of the soldiers of an Arban fled, the remaining nine would also be executed. This law created a brotherhood and unity among the Mongol army, where giving one's life for another was very natural. Their silence on the battlefield was as terrifying as a crematorium, and their attacks were as swift as lightning.

2. Faster than light: Cavalry

The main strength of the Mongol army was their horses. A Mongol warrior always had 3 to 4 horses with him. When one horse got tired, they would jump on another while still moving. As a result, they could cover more than 100 miles in a day, which was unimaginable for any other army in the world at that time.

When thousands of Mongol horses crossed deserts or mountains, overcoming the speed of the wind, the earth's tremors could be felt for miles. Their horses were small but very tolerant. During war, these horses became the warrior's best companions. Temujin taught how to shoot arrows accurately while sitting on horseback, turning backwards—what was called the 'Parthian shot.'

3. Mongol bow: a deadly weapon

The Mongol warriors' bows were extremely powerful and were made of bone, horn, and wood. Their range was about 350 yards. When the Mongols rained arrows, the sky would darken.

Imagine, when thousands of arrows hit the enemy at once, it felt like a death warrant was coming down from the sky. Whistling Arrows were used to communicate orders on the battlefield. Hearing the sound of that whistle would make the enemy tremble, because they knew that certain death would come immediately after this sound.

4. Psychological warfare and intelligence networks

Genghis Khan used to send spies into enemy territory before battle. They would spread rumors in the marketplace that the Mongols were not human, but were devils from hell and that they ate human flesh. Due to this fear, many large fortresses surrendered before battle.

When he went to attack a city, he would take a position facing the sun so that the enemies would not be able to accurately estimate the number of Mongols due to the sun. Sometimes he would put dolls on horseback so that the Mongol army would appear huge from a distance. This brain of Genghis Khan was his greatest weapon on the battlefield.

Breach of the Great Wall and Fall of the Dragon — China Expedition

Mongolia was now unified, but Genghis Khan knew that beyond the steppes lay a vast, rich world. His eyes fell on the southeast—on the Jin Dynasty of China. At that time, China had huge fortresses, advanced technology, and millions of soldiers. The Mongols were just "barbaric nomads" to them. But no one could have imagined that these nomads would one day crush China's millennia-old pride.

1. Revenge for insults and declaration of war

When the new emperor of the Jin Dynasty ascended the throne, he demanded submission from Genghis Khan. Upon hearing this news, Genghis Khan spat in the ambassador's face and said:*"I thought the Emperor of China was a child of the sky, but he's actually just an ordinary person like us!"*This was a public declaration of war.

This moment is very dramatic in its 1.5 lakh word description. Genghis Khan stood in front of his white nine-tailed flag and prayed to Tengri, the god of the sky. In his eyes, not only the dream of victory,

but also the desire to avenge a hundred years of humiliation. He ordered his army to advance towards China.

2. The Great Wall Barrier and Mongol Tactics

The Great Wall of China was the wonder of the world at that time. A huge, high stone wall that no army could penetrate. But Genghis Khan didn't try to break the wall; he used his intelligence. He found all the passes and mountain roads that the Chinese had left unguarded.

[Image: Mongol cavalry bypassing the Great Wall through mountain passes]

Imagine, when thousands of Mongol horsemen descended through the mountain mist onto the plains of China, the Chinese guards were terrified. They thought that what the Great Wall could not stop was not a human being but an evil spirit. The Mongols stormed the villages of China and began to seize resources.

3. Beijing Siege: Fighting Hunger

In 1214, Genghis Khan laid siege to the Chinese capital of Beijing (then Zhongdu). The walls of Beijing were massive and impenetrable. The Mongols had not yet mastered the art of breaching a fortress. So Genghis Khan adopted a new strategy—'siegement.' He surrounded the city in such a way that not even a grain of food could get in.

A terrible famine broke out inside the city. History records that the people of Beijing, consumed by hunger, even began to eat the flesh of their own dead relatives. The Mongols were waiting outside the walls in tents. Genghis Khan knew that hunger was a much more powerful enemy than the sword.

4. The fall of the dragon and the gain of vast wealth

Beijing finally surrendered. When the Mongol army entered the city, what they saw was beyond their imagination. Golden thrones, silk cloth, and mountains of treasure. Genghis Khan allowed his warriors

to plunder. The streets of Beijing turned into rivers of blood. But Genghis Khan didn't just take the wealth, he took the Chinese engineers and scientists who knew how to build cannons and stone-throwing machines. It was this talent that later made him invincible.

Westward Expedition — Fall of Kara-Khitai and Kuchluk

After defeating the Jin Dynasty of China, Genghis Khan's empire was now vast, but to his west was the 'Kara-Khitai' empire. This region was part of present-day Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Its ruler was Kuchluk, the leader of Genghis Khan's old enemy, the Naiman tribe. Kuchluk was not only a political enemy, he was a tyrannical ruler who practiced religious persecution on the Muslim subjects of the region.

1. The tyranny of Kuchluk and the intelligence of Genghis Khan

Kuchluk interfered with the religious freedom of the people of the region. He forced people to renounce their faith. When Genghis Khan learned of this, he saw it as a political opportunity. He sent his general Jebe (called 'Arrow') with only 20,000 soldiers. Jebe was one of Genghis Khan's most trusted and talented generals.

2. Religious Freedom: A New Tool of War

When Zebe entered Kara-Khittai, he did not declare a bloody war. Instead, he declared—*"Everyone will be able to practice their own religion, and religious freedom will be guaranteed under Genghis Khan's rule."*This one announcement brought the entire region together against Kuchluk and in favor of the Mongols. The common people willingly opened the city gates.

This moment is crucial in the 1.5 lakh word narrative. It proves that Genghis Khan knew how to conquer empires not only by force of

arms, but also by winning people's hearts and through political diplomacy. Kuchluk was cut off from his own subjects and fled to the mountains in fear of his life.

3. The end of the wretchedness

Jebe and his army pursued Kuchluk into the remote mountains of the Pamir Plateau. There, Kuchluk was captured and beheaded. This brought the Kara-Khitan Empire under Mongol control. As a result of this victory, the borders of the Mongol Empire now directly touched the borders of the great Khwarazmian Empire of the Muslim world.

4. Dreams of Trade and the Silk Road

After conquering the Kara-Khitans, Genghis Khan gained control of the historic Silk Road. He wanted to trade instead of war. He sent an offer of friendship to Alauddin Muhammad, the Sultan of the Khwarazm Empire. He wrote:*"I consider you as my son. Come, let us open the way for trade with each other."*But history did not accept this peace proposal, which gave rise to the most brutal war in world history.

The Flood of Glory — The Fall of the Khwarizm Empire and Blood Vengeance

Genghis Khan did not really want to fight the West, he wanted trade. But fate put his sword to the ultimate test. The most powerful and prosperous empire in the Muslim world at that time was the Khwarazmian Empire, whose sultan was Alauddin Muhammad. This empire included famous cities like Samarkand, Bukhara and Ghazni.

1. The Otrara tragedy and the context of the war

In 1218, Genghis Khan sent a large caravan of about 450 Muslim merchants to the city of Otrar in the Khwarezm Empire. His intention was to establish trade relations with the sultan. But the governor of Otrar, Inalchuq, driven by greed, accused the merchants of being "spies" and brutally killed them all and looted their goods.

Genghis Khan was shocked to hear the news. He patiently sent three envoys to the Sultan and demanded that Governor Inalchuk be brought to justice. But Sultan Alauddin Muhammad showed extreme arrogance—he killed one of the envoys and insulted and drove away the other two by burning their beards.

This moment would be very solemn in a 1.5 million word description. When the humiliated envoys returned to Mongolia, Genghis Khan did not burst into anger, but calmly retreated to the mountains alone. He prayed for three days and then came down and uttered his famous words—"It was not I, Tengri sent punishment upon you. I am the punishment."

2. The arrival of the angel of death through the desert

The Sultan thought the Mongols would come through the normal route. But Genghis Khan did something that no one could have imagined. He crossed a vast desert called 'Kyzyl Kum' with his huge army, which no one had been able to cross before.

The Mongols suddenly appeared behind the Khwarizm Empire. The Sultan was unprepared. The ground of Bukhara and Samarkand began to tremble under the hooves of the Mongol army's horses.

3. Fall of Bukhara and Samarkand

In 1220, Genghis Khan entered Bukhara. He stood in the city's main mosque (the Jame Mosque) and announced that the Mongols were here today because of the Sultan's sins. The Mongols began to conquer one city after another. Samarkand, the center of knowledge and science, was reduced to dust.

Sultan Alauddin Muhammad fled his empire to an island in the Caspian Sea, where he died destitute. His son Jalaluddin Khwarizm Shah fought bravely, but could not withstand the Mongol forces.

4. The Otter's Revenge

The governor Inalchuk, who had killed the Mongol merchants, was imprisoned. Genghis Khan decreed a terrible punishment for him. It is said that molten silver was poured into his eyes and ears, as if he were to pay the ultimate price for his greed. This was Genghis Khan's stern message—"If you lay a hand on my messenger, I will burn the whole world."

Law and order — the backbone of an invincible empire

Genghis Khan knew that it was easy to conquer a kingdom with the sword, but impossible to hold it without law. The Mongols were previously nomads who had no written laws. To eliminate that chaos, Genghis Khan introduced his famous code of laws—'Yassa'.

'Daughter Diplomacy'

Genghis Khan's daughters—Alankua, Alkhai, and others—were the living walls of his empire. Genghis Khan skillfully married his daughters to the kings of important neighboring kingdoms along the Silk Road.

- **Conditions: Before marriage, the king had to abandon all his other wives and participate in the war for the Mongol army.**
- **Daughters of the Ruler: When their sons-in-law were busy fighting or died, Genghis Khan's daughters would ascend the thrones of those states. This created a 'safety zone' around Mongolia ruled by his own daughters. It is said that without Genghis Khan's daughters, the Mongol Empire would not have expanded so rapidly.**

1. Yassa: A cosmic regime

The Yasa was not just a set of rules, it was the Mongol code of life. Genghis Khan ordered that these laws be carved on blue stone and kept secret in the royal archives.

- **Death penalty: The punishment for treason, theft, adultery, and polluting water unnecessarily was death.**
- **Social unity: One Mongol could never enslave another Mongol. This was his main mantra to stop tribal strife.**

2. Religious freedom and tolerance

At a time when the world was in a state of religious bloodshed, Genghis Khan was surprisingly generous. Under the Yasa law, anyone in the Mongol Empire was free to practice their own religion. Muslim astronomers, Buddhist monks, and Christian priests would sit together in Genghis Khan's court to give advice. He believed that all religions were different paths to the same God. This generosity made him acceptable to people of different ethnic groups.

3. 'Arrow Messenger' or postal communication

Genghis Khan developed the world's first effective express postal system, called the Yam. There was a station every 25-30 miles, where fresh horses and food were always ready. As a result, a message or letter could travel thousands of miles in just a few days. It was said that a virgin girl could travel from one end of the Mongol Empire to the other with a golden plate on her head—so secure was his rule.

4. Meritocracy

Genghis Khan broke the tradition of hereditary nobility in his empire. He did not appoint a general based on his father's name, but rather on

his bravery and talent. His two greatest generals, Jebe and Subutai, came from common families. Jebe even wounded Temujin with an arrow in battle, but seeing his bravery, Temujin forgave him and made him a general.

The Invisible Eye of Mongolia — Intelligence Forces and Information Warfare

Genghis Khan believed that a war was won long before it began. To him, information was sharper than the sword.

- **Merchants and monks disguised as spies: He used the merchants of the Silk Road as his spies. When they went to trade in other countries, they would not only buy goods, but also bring back information about the condition of the country's fortresses, the number of soldiers, and the conflicts of the royal family. Buddhist and Muslim monks also gathered information for him, because they could travel everywhere with ease.**
- **Psychological Warfare: Genghis Khan knew that half the battle was won by weakening the enemy mentally. He spread rumors that the Mongols were devils from hell and that they built mountains with the bones of the defeated. Hearing this, many powerful armies would lay down their arms before fighting.**
- **Military Maps: The Mongols were the first to use precise sketch maps. They would draw detailed maps of rivers, mountains, and secret roads, which helped them to attack quickly.**

Mongol influence in architecture and art — Karakoram city

Being nomadic, the Mongols had no permanent cities, but Genghis Khan founded the city of Karakorum to govern the empire.

- **A meeting place for cultures: Karakoram was a city where twelve different religions were worshipped together. It was here that knowledge and technology that came along the Silk Road were stored.**
- **He brought a gathering of craftsmen: silk artists from China, architects from Persia, and goldsmiths from Europe to Karakoram. He believed that a kingdom could be conquered with the sword, but it had to be sustained with knowledge.**

The Mongols at the Gates of Europe — The Russian Campaign and the Battle of the Kalka River

After the destruction of the Khwarizm Empire, Genghis Khan sent his two best generals, Subutai and Zebe, on a special expedition with 20,000 soldiers. Their task was not only to capture the fugitive sultan, but also to survey the areas around the Caspian Sea. This small army was to knock on the doors of the vast Russian plains and Europe within a few years.

1. Crossing the Caucasus and the arduous journey

Subutai and Zebe led their armies through Azerbaijan and Georgia into the Caucasus Mountains. When the Mongols reached the borders of Europe, defying the impassable mountain passes and the snowfall, the knights there had never seen warriors like the Mongols. The Mongols were as fast as the wind and as accurate as an arrow.

2. Alliance of Russian princes

The princes of Kievan Rus' were terrified by the Mongol advance. Several Russian kings, including Prince Mstislav the Bold, assembled a massive army of about 80,000 men. The Russians outnumbered the

Mongols by four to one. The Russians thought they could easily crush this 'nomadic' army.

3. Battle of the Kalka River

1223. One of the most cunning battles in history took place on the banks of the Kalka River. Subutai used an unimaginable tactic—the 'Feigned Retreat'.

- **Dramatic Escape: The Mongols pretended to flee from the Russian army for 9 days. The Russians thought the Mongols were scared, so instead of advancing in an orderly manner, they began to pursue them haphazardly.**
- **Trap: Just as the Russian army was exhausted and scattered and crossed the Kalka River, Subutai ordered his horses to turn.**

In an instant, the scene changed. The fleeing Mongols suddenly turned like monsters and charged at the Russians. The Russians' heavy armor and long swords were useless against the Mongols' light and fast cavalry. The waters of the Kalka River turned red with the blood of Russian warriors. About 70,000 Russian soldiers lost their lives in that battle.

4. An inhuman festival

After the battle, the Mongols celebrated their victory in a strange and gruesome way. They laid the defeated Russian princes on a wooden plank. Sitting on that plank, Subutai and his generals feasted in victory, and the Russian princes, crushed to death by the pain, died. This was the Mongols' stern message—those who did not submit to the Mongols would face dire consequences.

Spirituality and mystical shamanism

The most mysterious part of Genghis Khan's life is his religious beliefs and his spiritual power.

- **Tengri's Messenger: He considered himself the whip of the 'Eternal Blue Sky' (Tengri). He would thank Tengri after each of his victories.**
- **Burkhan Khaldun meditated on the mountain: During every difficult time in his life, he would go alone to this holy mountain. There he would fast and worship for three days and three nights.**
- **Religious debates: Genghis Khan was unusually generous. He would invite Muslim imams, Buddhist lamas, and Christian priests to his court and engage them in debates. He himself would sit as a silent spectator, listening to the profound discussions and trying to find the ultimate truth.**

Mahaprayan — Last expedition and mysterious departure

The year was 1226. Genghis Khan was in his sixties. His body was worn out by the wounds of war and the weight of age, but the fire inside him was still burning. When he stepped out of his tent and looked up at the night sky, he felt that the sun was setting. But before he left, he had one more task to do: avenge the betrayal of the Western Zia (Tangut).

1. West Zia's betrayal

During the Khwarizm campaign, the king of Western Zia refused to help Genghis Khan and mocked him. Genghis Khan did not forget that insult. He told his sons,*"Even if I die, don't forgive this treacherous nation."*Despite his ill health, he decided to lead the expedition himself.

2. That unfortunate accident

While hunting a wild horse on the way to the expedition, Genghis Khan fell from his horse. He suffered severe internal injuries and developed a high fever. His generals begged him to return, but Genghis Khan had one thing in mind:*"If I go back, they'll think I'm scared."*Overcoming the pain, he continued to fight.

3. Last advice in life: Message to children

The dying Genghis Khan called his four sons—Zachi (who had died by then), Chagatai, Ogodai, and Tolui—to him. He gave them a bunch of arrows and told them to break one arrow each. They broke it easily. Then he gave them a bunch of arrows together and told them to break it. No one could. Genghis Khan whispered,*"As long as you are one, the world will be yours. But when you are separated, it will break like an arrow."*He chose the calm-natured Ogodai as his successor.

4. 1227: The Fall of a Star

August 1227. Just as the Western Xia Empire was on the verge of collapse, Genghis Khan breathed his last. The cause of his death remains a mystery to this day. Some say battle wounds, some say fever, and some say a plot by the enemy. But for the Mongols, the sky seemed to fall that day. Their 'Great Khan' was no more.

Eternal Silence — Secret Tomb and Legacy

Genghis Khan left a strange and strict instruction before his death. He wanted his tomb to be in a place that no one on earth would ever find. He wanted it to blend in quietly with nature, not in some grandiose monument.

1. That bloody funeral

On that fateful day in 1227, the body of Genghis Khan was being brought back to Mongolia. The journey was one of the most silent and terrible in history. According to orders, any burial party encountered

along the way was killed. Even those who dug the tomb were killed so that the location of the grave would remain a secret forever.

According to Mongolian folklore, he was buried on his beloved mountain, 'Burkhan Khaldun'. After the burial, a thousand horses were driven over the site repeatedly to remove any trace of soil. Many believe that a river was even diverted over his grave. Even after 800 years, no one has found the location of his grave, even with the use of modern technology.

2. Distribution of the Empire: Inheritance of Four Sons

Genghis Khan divided his vast empire into four parts (uluses) for the descendants of his four sons. This division governed the politics of Asia and Europe for the next several hundred years:

- **Ogodai Khan: He is the 'Great Khan'. He is responsible for conquering the core of Mongolia and China.**
- **Descendants of Jochi (Golden Horde): Jochi's sons (Batu Khan) gained a large area of present-day Russia and Eastern Europe.**
- **Chagatai Khan: The territories of Central Asia and Khwarezm fell to him.**
- **Tolui Khan: The father of Mongolia and later his son Halaqu Khan conquered Persia and Baghdad.**

3. Pax Mongolica

After the death of Genghis Khan, his successors created a system where peace and trade were established throughout Asia. This is called the 'Mongol Peace'. Through the Silk Road, silk from the East began to come to the West and technology from the West to the East. His grandson Kublai Khan made history by establishing the 'Yuan Dynasty' in China.

The Great Period of History — Evaluation and Immortality

Genghis Khan—a name, a history, a storm. Even after eight hundred years, this name has not been erased from the map of the world. When we stand in the mirror of modern history, we see that Genghis Khan was not just a conqueror, he was a craftsman who changed the face of the world.

1. Destroy or build?

European and Muslim historians have long portrayed him as a 'bloodthirsty' or 'destroyer'. There is no denying the devastation of Samarkand, Bukhara or Beijing. But the other side of the coin tells a different story. What Genghis Khan gave the world was mightier than the sword.

- **Globalization: He was responsible for the first direct contact between Asia and Europe.**
- **Writing system: He introduced the first alphabet (Uyghur script) for the Mongols.**
- **Merit-based society: He gave birth to a new political philosophy by valuing merit over blood ties.**

2. The shadow of Genghis Khan in the modern world

Surprisingly, many of the innovations in today's modern world are rooted in Genghis Khan's inventions.

- **Paper money: The Mongols were the first to introduce paper money on a large scale.**
- **Diplomatic immunity: Genghis Khan was the first to strictly enforce the modern rule of not killing envoys and providing them with protection.**
- **Religious tolerance: While people of different religions were being burned to death in Europe, Buddhists, Muslims, and Christians lived in peace under Genghis Khan.**

3. Blood inheritance

A study by modern genetic science has shown that one in every 200 men in the world today has the DNA of Genghis Khan. He is not only the life and blood of an empire, but also of a vast population. The people of Mongolia still worship him as the father of their nation and the 'Holy Genghis'.